



**Connecticut Department of Public Health**

**Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee**

**March 7, , 2016**

**Commissioner Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.  
860-509-7101**

**Raised Bill No. 5543 - An Act Concerning Home Health Regulations**

The Department of Public Health (DPH) provides the following information in regards to Raised Bill No. 5543. The proposed bill mandates the Commissioner of Public Health to meet with members of the Connecticut Medicaid home health legislative working group to review and discuss potential changes to the Department's regulations governing home health care. The Commissioner would be required to report to the public health and human services committee on their recommendations.

The Department meets on a quarterly basis with representatives from the Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home and an ongoing agenda item has been revising and updating the home health regulations to align better with current workforce and industry standards. The Department has been very open to dialogue regarding suggestions and recommendations that have been made relative to the regulatory process. In fact, on January 6, 2014, pursuant to a collaborative work group between the home health industry and the Department, Governor Dannel P. Malloy approved emergency regulations that were developed to assist a medically complex pediatric population and ensure continuity of care.

The Department feels that the mandates in this bill are duplicative of the work we are already doing but would welcome further discussion with members of the Public Health Committee to listen to their thoughts and determine whether legislation is needed to accomplish the goals of this proposed bill. The requirement for a separate report would add to the Department's workload, thus diverting scarce agency resources from other core public health activities.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill